

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

TABLE 1

<i>Ischaemum thomsonianum</i>	<i>Ischaemum agastyamalayanum</i> sp. nov.
1. Joints of racemes 3-4 mm long, densely ciliate along one angle, with a tooth-like projection on inner side	Joints 2-3 mm long, distinctly 3-angled, furrowed, densely villous all along, flat and without a tooth-like projection
2. Lower glume of the sessile spikelets glabrous, bicuspidate, lobes straight, narrowly winged at apex	Lower glume densely hairy, trilobed at apex, if bicuspidate then the lobes divaricate, not winged at apex.
3. Arista on the upper glume 1-2 mm long	Arista c. 3 mm long
4. Pedicelled spikelets glabrous	Pedicelled spikelets densely villous

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Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for the Latin diagnosis and Mrs. C. P. Malathi for the habit sketch.

A NEW SPECIES OF *MERREMIA* HALL. F. (CONVOLVULACEAE)
FROM INDIA¹

M. M. BHANDARI²

(With a text-figure)

***Merremia rajasthanensis* sp. nov. (Fig. 1)**

Planta annua, glabra, caulis serpens vel volubilis, valde trialatus alis 1-1.5 mm latis; internodium 8-15 cm longum. Folia alterna; petiolus 3-12 cm longus, adaxialiter sulcatus; lamina pedata, fere ad basin divisa, quinqueloba lobis inferioris iterum divisus, 1-2 — lobis; lobi lanceolati, 2.5-9.0 × 0.5-2.3 cm, lobo medio maximo apice acuminato basi angustata et marginibus integris nonnihil undulatis, venis abaxialiter prominentibus. Pendunculi 1-4-flori, axillares, 1.5-4.0 cm longi, quadriangulati; pedicelli quinqueangulati sulcatique, 0.9-1.3 cm longi, sursum sensim dilatati et ad apicem c. 0.3 cm lati; bracteae lineares, c. 0.5 cm longae, basi valde glandulosae et cicatricibus instructae. Flores aparti usque 2 cm lati.

Sepala quinque, subaequalia, c. 1.1 × 0.7 cm, oblongo-ovata, mucronata, membranacea. Corolla alba, infundibulariformis, usque 2 cm longa; tubus 1.2-1.5 cm longus; lobi quinque, 0.5-0.7 cm longi, ad apicem rotundati, regione media glabra. Stamina filamentis c. 1 cm longis fere ad medium adnatis parte adnata dilatata et glanduloso-pilosa, pollinis grana 3-zonicolata, laevia. Ovarium super discum prominentem quinquelobum insidens; stigma bilobum, glabrum. Capsula c. 0.7 cm diam., bruneola, subgloboso-pyramidalis, ad apicem stylo persistenti instructa. Semina 3(-4), hebetato-atra, c. 0.5 × 0.4 cm, oblongo-ovoidea, trigona, laevia, glabra.

This species is closely allied to *Merremia quinquefolia* (Linn.) Hall. f., but is easily distinguished by its pedate leaves, winged and glabrous stem and glabrous seeds. However, it appears to be related to the African *M. palmata* Hall. f. and *M. verecunda* Rendle.

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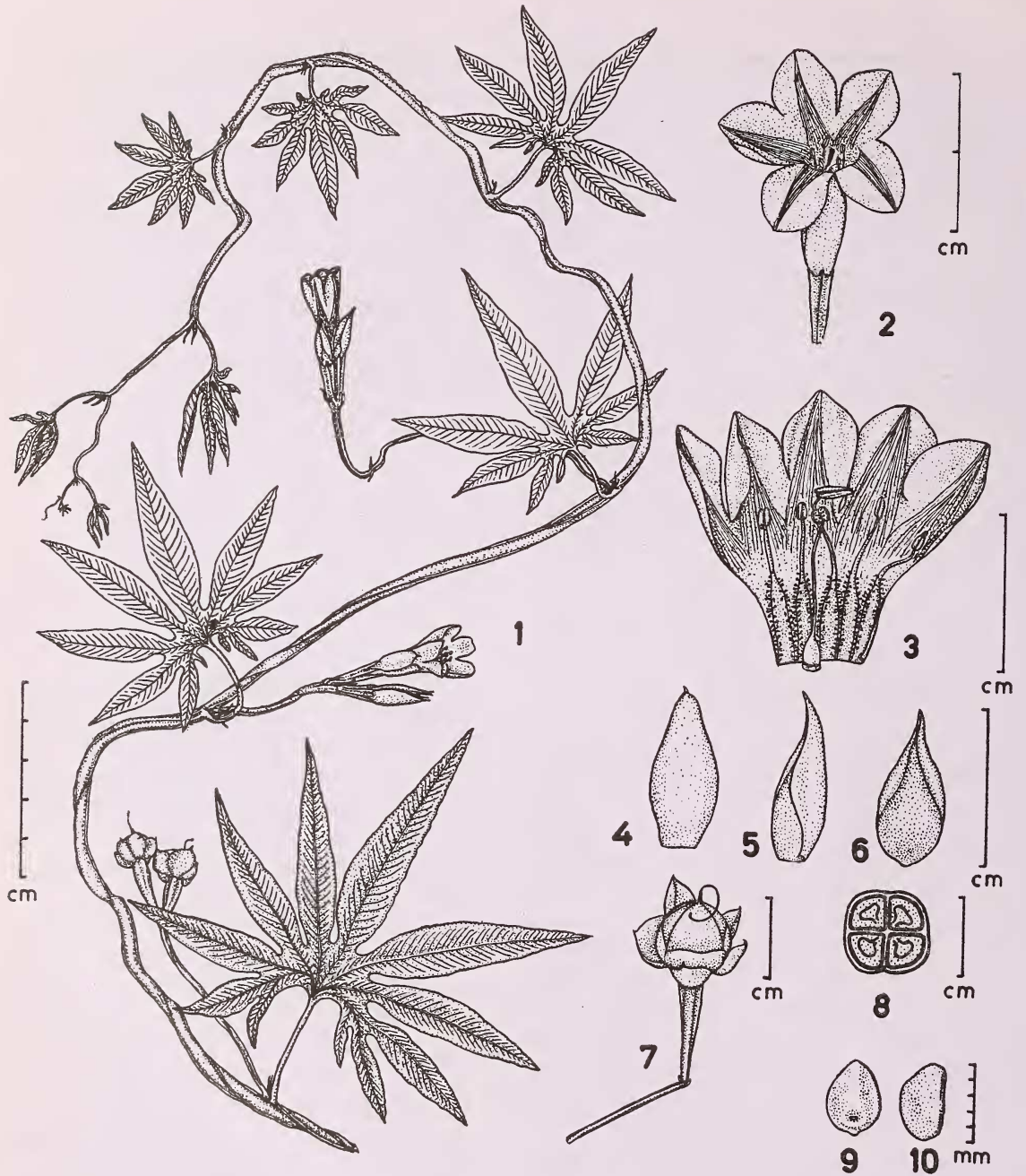


Fig. 1. *Merremia rajasthanensis* sp. nov.

1. Part of stem with inflorescence and fruits; 2. flower; 3. flower split open to show androecium and gynoecium; 4-6. sepals, dorsal, lateral and ventral view; 7. mature fruit with persistent calyx; 8. T.S. of fruit; 9-10. seeds, ventral and lateral view.

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

The stem of this species is typically winged like that of African *M. pterygocaulis* (Choisy) Hall. f.

***Merremia rajasthanensis* sp. nov.** (Fig. 1)

Glabrous annual. Stem trailing or twining, conspicuously 3-winged, wings 1-1.5 mm wide; internodes 8-15 cm long. Leaves alternate; petiole 3-12 cm long, adaxially grooved; leaf-blade pedately divided nearly to the base, 5-lobed, the lower lobes again sub-divided into 1 or 2 lobes; lobes lanceolate, 2.5-9.0 × 0.5-2.3 cm, middle lobe the largest, apex acuminate, base narrowed, margins entire and very slightly undulate, veins abaxially prominent. Peduncles 1-4-flowered, axillary, 1.5-4.0 cm long, 4-angled; pedicels 5-angled and grooved, 0.9-1.3 cm long, gradually widening above, c. 0.3 cm wide at apex; bracts linear, c. 0.5 cm long, conspicuously glandular and scarred at the base. Flowers up to 2 cm across when fully open. Sepals 5, sub-equal, c. 1.1 × 0.7 cm, oblong-ovate, mucronate, membranous. Corolla white, funnel shaped, up to 2 cm long; tube 1.2-1.5 cm long; lobes 5, 0.5-0.7 cm

long, rounded at apex, mid-petaline area glabrous. Staminal filaments c. 1 cm long, adnate nearly to the middle, the adnate portion dilated and glandular hairy on the sides, pollen 3-zonicolpate, smooth. Ovary based on 5-lobed prominent disk; stigma 2-lobed, globular. Capsule c. 0.7 cm in diam., light brown sub-globose-pyramidal, glabrous, surrounded by persistent, spreading calyx, apex with persistent style. Seeds 3 (-4), dull-black, c. 0.5 × 0.4 cm, oblong-ovoid, trigonous, smooth and glabrous.

RAJASTHAN DESERT: Jodhpur District: Sardarsamand, near margin of lake on field fences: *Bhandari*: 1976! date, 29.8.1975 (K, holotype; JAC, Isotype); Jodhpur University campus, twining on grasses: *Bhandari* 2185! date, 14.9.1975. BARMER DISTRICT: Climbing on shrubs and grasses on hillock behind Metaji's temple on rocks: *Bhandari* 2187! date, 8.9.1976.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ISACHNE HENRYI — A NEW SPECIES OF POACEAE
FROM KERALA, INDIA¹

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(With a text-figure)

***Isachne henryi* sp. nov.**
(Fig. 1)

Isachne miliacea Roth ex Roem. et Schult. affinis, sed foliis longioribus (usque ad 8 cm), linearis — lanceolatis; glumis 9-11-nerviis, setosis; antheris longioribus (1.5-2 mm) et

pedicellis longioribus (usque ad 8 mm) differt.

Annual. Culms 15-50 cm long, creeping or geniculate, slender; nodes glabrous. Leaves lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, 2-8 × 0.2-0.5 cm, rounded or very shallowly cordate at base, scabrid along the nerves. Ligule a row of long hairs. Panicles 2-12 × 1-5 cm, widely spreading, green to purplish; peduncles long, exserted, branches 1-4 cm long, alternate. Spikelets broadly ovate or orbicular, 1.5-2 mm long,

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